

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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The following information was presented in a training lecture for People's Police assistants (VP-Helfer) on 21 January 1955 in the training room of Police District No. 253, in Berlin-Lichtenberg:

1. Forging of Personal Documentation

Personal documents are being forged with "ink-killer" (Tintented), one of the amino-acids. This acid completely obliterates the related ink used by the People's Police on its documentation, and is said to leave no traces detectable by x-ray. Cases are known in which the forgers purchased identity-cards of sport organizations or the Society for Soviet-German Friendship. These cards, like those of the People's Police, have a blue leatherette (lederol) cover and are about the same size. The People's Police has given instructions to sales organizations not to sell unless the inside of the identification pass is displayed. Purchases may no longer be made on the identity cards of the above organizations or other certification documents which do not possess exactly the same dimensions. On the other hand, the SED identification card is still considered to be a valid "document". To detect forgeries, less emphasis will henceforth be placed upon examination of the name than upon the blue number stamped on the under-side of the pass.

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2. Wanted-Lists

The wanted-lists of the People's Police are to be changed. Checking will be made according to the numbers of the identity cards. The VP assistants were criticised for superficial and irresponsible handling of the wanted-lists. In the future no wanted-lists will be given to the VP assistants; they will be given only to the special police radio network (Funkstreifenbesatzungen) and People's Police who are members of the large activity area (Beschäftigungskreis) of the state security service (StB). These persons are to be identified by an aqueous-blue color patch (Spiegel), surrounded by a silver cord, on their dark blue uniform (Berlin police), or by a purplish red patch (Garrisoned Police).

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").

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3. Categorization of VP-Assistants

The VP-assistants will be divided into the following categories:

- a. The most reliable assistants will be placed under the jurisdiction of the operational staff of the individual inspectorates (jeweilige Inspektionen) of the Berlin districts (Bezirke), where they will be responsible only to the district leaders (Revierleiter), that is, the VP Councillors and Superior Councillors (VP-Räte and VP-Oberräte).
- b. Those assistants who possess photographic, criminological knowledge (which has to be obtained by the individual himself) with dactylographic and dactyloscopic (fingerprinting) capabilities are to be subordinated to the Kriminal-Dauerdienst at appropriate times. They have liaison with the StB and the inspection chiefs (Inspektionsleiter), and they are responsible solely to the inspection chiefs and deputy chiefs. These VP-assistants also fill officer positions in the SED fighting-groups of the respective units. They have the right to borrow arms from the district supply. No more than 50 percent of the members of these groups may be women.
- c. A third group embraces the so-called "tippie brothers" (Tippelbrüder). To them is allotted the simple radio network duty (Streifendienst) or duty in the Bereitschaft. It is the duty of the latter to maintain the connection with the house overseers of their sector (Abschnitt), with the inn, and other similar establishments. It is their business to handle all fracas of tenants and hotel guests. They must report on their activity to any member of the People's Police. Recently these "tippie brothers" were placed on the borders of the Soviet zone (Sektorengrenze) as labor-controllers (Arbeiterkontrollanten).

4. New Passes for VP-assistants

The identity cards for VP-assistants, which were only recently handed out, are to be recalled and new cards showing each individual's potential uses (Einsatzmöglichkeiten) are to be given out.

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